

NEWS RELEASE



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MORGAN CITY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRANSMITTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Man uses chat rooms to target unsuspecting teenage girls

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today that **WARREN J. CLULEE, JR.**, age 31, from Morgan City, Louisiana, pleaded guilty in federal court before United States District Judge Richard T. Haik to transmission of child pornography.

CLULEE was indicted in June 2006 following undercover investigations by the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office into illegal activities on special interest chat rooms.

In June 2006, an agent with the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office was contacted by a detective with the Waterford, Ohio Police Department with information regarding an undercover internet investigation. According to the Ohio detective, CLULEE transmitted seven pornographic images to an undercover detective whom CLULEE believed was a young girl below the age of eighteen. Six of the images depicted

children under the age of 18 naked or engaged in sexual acts.

In pleading guilty today, CLULEE admitted to transmitting child pornography via the internet using his AOL account.

This case was prosecuted under the Project Safe Childhood Initiative announced by the United States Department of Justice in February 2006. The initiative is designed to protect our children from child predators. Under this initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies join together to investigate and prosecute crimes against children facilitated through the Internet or other electronic media and communications devices and to obtain the strictest penalties available under state or federal law.

Sentencing will be scheduled for a later date to be determined by the court. CLULEE faces a maximum of twenty years federal imprisonment, a fine of not more than \$250,000, and a life term of supervised release.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission may only be used as guidelines by the judge. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Luke Walker.

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